22nd March 1921]

A.—The member is referred to the answer to question No. 345 which was laid on the table on the 21st February last.

Draughtsmen establishment in Public Works Department.

463 Q.—Mr. B. P. Devarajulu Nayudu : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue and the Hon'ble the Minister for Education (Public Works)—

(*a*) if it is a fact that in the reorganization of the draughtsmen establishment in 1913 the number of appointments in the higher grade was reduced, and that, in consequence, persons drawing pay higher than that which they were entitled to according to the reorganization were allowed to draw the excess as personal allowance ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the Chief Engineer in 1916 informed the members of the above establishment that proposals for further reorganization of the draughtsmen establishment were under consideration and, if so, whether any proposals have been made ;

(*c*) if it is a fact that the reorganization of a single subordinate service is under consideration and, if so, what scales are proposed and when they will be given effect to ; and

(*d*) whether all the lower subordinates in the Public Works Department will be taken into the single subordinate service without any restriction.

A.—(*a*) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the majority of draughtsmen posts were on incremental scales of pay before the reorganization and these posts were converted in the reorganization into posts of Upper and Lower Subordinates on fixed scales of pay. Consequently draughtsmen adversely affected by the new scales were granted personal allowances.

(*b*) Proposals for a further reorganization of the draughtsmen establishment were considered by the Chief Engineer in 1916 but were deferred owing to the financial stringency caused by the war.

(*c*) Proposals in regard to the formation of a single subordinate service are under consideration. The new service will be constituted as soon as certain details regarding pay, etc., which are under consideration are settled.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

Amelioration of depressed classes.

464 Q.—Rao Sahib P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu ; To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member to state—

(*a*) what steps were taken in the Guntūr district for ameliorating the condition of the depressed classes in the matter of providing them with suitable building sites, good water-supply and educational facilities ; and

(*b*) whether any grant was made for the purpose in favour of local bodies during the last three years.

A.—(*a*) No special steps have been taken by Government during the last three years but efforts made in 1917 to relieve congestion in villages met with little response. The Government propose to appoint an Assistant Commissioner of Labour for the district. The local bodies have continued to direct their attention to the matter.

(*b*) Yes, for house-sites and education.